(b) One tropical tasar cluster Center is being implemented in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa, covering two blocks at Saraskana and Kuliana. During the year 2009-10, it is proposed to implement 19 more cluster projects in different States including the State of Jharkhand.

(e) Under the Cluster Promotion Programme, the latest technological innovations could be disseminated in a systematic way to improve production, productivity and quality. The cluster development creates interest among other farmers to take-up sericulture mainly due to the fact that the farmers shall get constant support/guidance from the implementing agency from the stage of the commencement of host plant development till post-cocoon activities. The Cluster Programme brings in awareness among the sericulturists about the latest technologies developed and the kind of technical and financial assistance available to improve sericulture.

Reintroduction of export market assistance

1003. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will propose for reintroduction of the export market assistance to boost the export of jute goods which was stopped by Government since April, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme is not being reintroduced as there is no fund availability for grant of Subsidy for such export assistance. Also, such export subsidy is likely to be WTO non-compatible.

Stock of cotton in the country

1004. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the size of current stock of cotton available in the country in relation to the corresponding stock last year;

(b) the current size of requirements;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India is hoarding the stock of cotton;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government is considering a proposal to regulate the activities of the Corporation; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Current stock of cotton in the country is estimated at 54 lakh bales (170 kgs. each) as against 43 lakh bales (170 kgs. each) during the previous year.

(b) Current size of requirement of cotton is 241 lakh bales.

(c) and (d) There is no hoarding of the stock of cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI). CCI is a nominated Government agency for procurement of cotton under Minimum Support Price operations. Whenever the market price of kapas falls below/touches the Minimum Support Price (MSP), CCI is mandated to undertake support price operation and purchases kapas at MSP without any quantitative limit to safeguard the interest of the cotton farmers in the country.

(e) There is no necessity to regulate the activities of the Corporation.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Apparel Training and Design Centres

1005. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) all over the country with State-wise break-up thereof, indicating the number of persons trained in them during the last three years and till date, year-wise and centre-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to open more ATDCs in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the proposed locations of new ATDCs in the State and the time schedule for their opening; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The total number of ATDCs all over the country indicating the number of persons admitted/trained in these Centres during the last three financial years and current financial year is enclosed as a Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) For setting up of ATDC Centres at Nizamabad, Visakhapatnam, Vijaywada and Hindupur, AEPC has sent proposals to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and these centers would be set up after completion of necessary formalities by the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.